

COUNTRY Korea/China

DATE DISTR. 6 DEC 51

SUBJECT Movement of Troops and Materiel between Manchuria and North Korea

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE ACQUIRED [REDACTED] 25X1A

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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The following is a summary of troops and supply traffic between North Korea and Manchuria during the month of July 1951 in the Antung-Sinuiju-Charyong'wan (124-42, 39-51) (XB 4512) area.

a. Traffic from Manchuria into North Korea and south from Sinuiju.

1. Means of transportation: Heavy rail traffic was confined to the periods between 5:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. and between 2:00 a.m. and 4:00 a.m. Trains were running between Antung and Charyong'wan regularly; trucks and various types of carts were also employed.

2. Troops and equipment.

Chinese Communist forces: Approximately 200,000 men, of whom 30 percent were fully equipped, 50 percent partly equipped, and 20 percent labor corps personnel. Trains carried 60 percent of the troops, 20 percent rode in trucks, and the remainder moved on foot.

North Korean forces: About 40,000 troops. Only ten percent moved south by train, the rest proceeding on foot during the hours of darkness.

Soviet troops: Fifteen hundred fully equipped troops moved south in new Soviet trucks [REDACTED].

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Mongolian troops: Five thousand fully equipped troops, half by train and half by truck [REDACTED].

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Czechoslovakian troops: Two thousand fully equipped troops, half by train and half by truck [REDACTED].

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Auth: HR 70-2
Date: 8/18/78

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c. Armor, artillery, and vehicles.

Tanks: About 200 tanks proceeded south, about half of which were sent on flat cars and the rest under their own power. Half of the tank crews were North Korean, half Chinese Communist, and the remainder Soviet, Mongolian, or other troops.

Artillery: Approximately 4,000 field pieces, 60 percent of them horse-drawn and the remainder pulled by truck. About 30 percent were "Stalin" guns, 20 percent Katusha rocket launchers, 20 percent long-range guns, and 30 percent field artillery, anti-tank, and anti-aircraft guns.

Trucks: About 4,700 trucks, of which a fifth carried troops, one-half ammunition, and the remainder rations and miscellaneous equipment. Artillery pieces were attached to some of the loaded trucks.

Carts: About 5,500 ox and horse-carts transported food and clothing. About 8,000 carts drawn by humans, of which 60 percent carried food and small arms and 40 percent automatic weapons, trench mortars, and ammunition.

Horses: Half of the 5,000 horses moving south were hauling artillery pieces, about a fifth carried food supplies, and the remainder were ridden by officers.

b. Traffic from Korea north-bound to Manchuria.

1. Means of transportation: The movement was confined to the hours of darkness. Every night a train left Charyongwan for Sinuiju and Antung at midnight. A Soviet unit manned anti-aircraft batteries placed on the first and last cars of the train. The coaches bore red cross markings.

2. Troops and equipment.

Chinese Communist: Seventy thousand troops, of whom 80 percent were unarmed, 10 percent carried either pistols or rifles, and the remainder were wounded being sent to hospitals in Manchuria. Half moved by train and half by truck.

North Korean: Fourteen thousand troops. Most were poorly equipped and about 10 percent were severely wounded.

Prisoners of war: About 2,500 prisoners of war, of whom 80 percent were United States troops and the rest ROK soldiers, moved north during the period. They traveled at night on foot. Many were suffering from improper diet and lack of adequate clothing.

3. Artillery, vehicles, and horses: About 5,000 trucks moved north, half of them empty and half carrying troops and light equipment. Of the 3,600 horses moving north, almost all hauled empty carts; 10 percent hauled damaged artillery pieces.

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